

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiff,

v.

FMC CORPORATION, INC.,

Defendant.

476
CIVIL ACTION NO. 01-CV-2946 (KSH)

PARTIAL CONSENT DECREE

240068



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I. BACKGROUND

A. The United States of America ("United States"), on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), filed a complaint in this matter pursuant to Sections 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9607 (the "United States action"). FMC filed a Complaint pursuant to Section 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613 (the "FMC action"). The FMC action has been consolidated with the United States action.

B. The United States in its complaint seeks: reimbursement of costs incurred by EPA and the Department of Justice for response actions at the Higgins Disposal Superfund Site located at 121 Laurel Avenue, Kingston, Somerset County, New Jersey, together with accrued interest. FMC in its complaint seeks: reimbursement of costs incurred by it for response actions at the Higgins Disposal Superfund Site, together with accrued interest.

C. In accordance with the NCP and Section 121(f)(1)(F) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9621(f)(1)(F), the United States notified the State of New Jersey (the "State") on January 22, 2004, of negotiations with potentially responsible parties regarding the implementation of the remedial design and remedial action for the Site, and EPA has provided the State with an opportunity to participate in such negotiations and be a party to this Consent Decree.

D. In accordance with Section 122(j)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(j)(1), the United States notified the Department of Interior and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration on January 14, 2004, of negotiations with potentially responsible parties regarding the release of hazardous substances that may have resulted in injury to the natural resources under Federal trusteeship and encouraged the trustee(s) to participate in the negotiation of this Consent Decree.

E. The defendant that has entered into this Partial Consent Decree is the FMC Corporation ("Settling Defendant").

F. The Settling Defendant does not admit any liability to the Plaintiff arising out of the transactions or occurrences alleged in the complaint, nor does the defendant acknowledge that the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at or from the Site constitutes an imminent or substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment.

G. Pursuant to Section 105 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9605, EPA placed the Site on the National Priorities List, set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 300, Appendix B, by publication in the Federal Register on August 30, 1990.

H. In response to a release or a substantial threat of a release of a hazardous substance(s) at or from the Site, EPA commenced in October 1992 a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study ("RI/FS") for the Site pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 300.430.

I. EPA completed the Remedial Investigation ("RI") Report in August 1996, and EPA completed a Feasibility Study ("FS") Report in August 1996.

J. Pursuant to Section 117 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9617, EPA published notice of the completion of the FS and of the proposed plan for remedial action in April 1997. EPA provided an opportunity for written and oral comments from the public on the proposed plan for remedial action. A copy of the transcript of the public meeting is available to the public as part of the administrative record upon which the Regional Administrator based the selection of the response action.

K. On September 30, 1997, EPA issued a Record of Decision ("ROD") which selected and described a response action for the contaminated groundwater at the Site. The State concurred on the groundwater remedy. The ROD includes a responsiveness summary to the public comments. The remedy selected in the ROD had two components: 1) provision of a public water supply to the residents along Laurel Avenue by extension of an existing public water supply line, and 2) installation of on-site extraction wells and a pipeline for the conveyance of the contaminated groundwater to the nearby Higgins Farm Superfund Site groundwater treatment plant for treatment. Notice of the final plan was published in accordance with Section 117(b) of CERCLA. Settling Defendant installed the extension of the public water supply line in 1998 pursuant to an EPA administrative order.

L. Based upon new information obtained by EPA after the ROD was issued, EPA issued an Explanation of Significant Differences ("ESD") on December 9, 2002. The State had a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the ESD. The ESD documented EPA's decision to extract, treat and reinject contaminated groundwater at the Site instead of conveying the contaminated groundwater to the Higgins Farm Superfund Site for treatment.

M. Based on the information presently available to EPA, EPA believes that the Work (as defined in Section IV below) will be properly and promptly conducted by the Settling Defendant if conducted in accordance with the requirements of this Consent Decree and its appendices.

N. Solely for the purposes of Section 113(j) of CERCLA, the Remedial Action described in the ESD and the Work to be performed by the Settling Defendant shall constitute a response action taken or ordered by the President.

O. The Parties recognize that this is a Partial Consent Decree that covers performance of the Work (as described in Section IV below).

P. The Parties recognize, and the Court by entering this Partial Consent Decree finds, that this Decree has been negotiated by the Parties in good faith and implementation of this Decree will expedite the cleanup of the Site and will avoid prolonged and complicated litigation between the Parties, and that this decree is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby Ordered, Adjudged, and Decreed:

II. JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345, and 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606, 9607, and 9613(b). This Court also has personal jurisdiction over the Settling Defendant. Solely for the purposes of this Consent Decree and the underlying complaint, Settling Defendant waives all objections and defenses that it may have to jurisdiction of the Court or to venue in this District. Settling Defendant shall not

challenge the terms of this Consent Decree or this Court's jurisdiction to enter and enforce this Consent Decree.

III. PARTIES BOUND

2. This Consent Decree applies to and is binding upon the United States and upon Settling Defendant and its successors and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate status of the Settling Defendant including, but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property, shall in no way alter Settling Defendant's responsibilities under this Consent Decree.

3. Settling Defendant shall provide a copy of this Consent Decree to each contractor hired to perform the Work required by this Consent Decree and to each person representing the Settling Defendant with respect to the Site or the Work and shall condition all contracts entered into hereunder upon performance of the Work in conformity with the terms of this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant or its contractors shall provide written notice of the Consent Decree to all subcontractors hired to perform any portion of the Work required by this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant shall nonetheless be responsible for ensuring that its contractors and subcontractors perform the Work contemplated herein in accordance with this Consent Decree. With regard to the activities undertaken pursuant to this Consent Decree, each contractor and subcontractor shall be deemed to be in a contractual relationship with the Settling Defendant within the meaning of Section 107(b)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(b)(3).

IV. DEFINITIONS

4. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Consent Decree which are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA shall have the meaning assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Consent Decree or in the appendices attached hereto and incorporated hereunder, the following definitions shall apply:

"CERCLA" shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601, *et seq.*

"Consent Decree" shall mean this Partial Consent Decree and all appendices attached hereto (listed in Section XXVIII). In the event of conflict between this Decree and any appendix, this Decree shall control.

"Day" shall mean a calendar day unless expressly stated to be a working day. "Working day" shall mean a day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.

"Effective Date" shall be the effective date of this Consent Decree as provided in Paragraph 98.

"EPA" shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any successor departments or agencies of the United States.

"Explanation of Significant Differences" or "ESD" shall mean the EPA Explanation of Significant Differences relating to the Site signed on December 9, 2002, by the Regional

Administrator, EPA Region 2, or her delegate, and all attachments thereto. The ESD is attached as Appendix A.

"Future Response Costs," for the purposes of this Consent Decree, shall mean all costs paid by the United States after this Consent Decree is lodged, including, but not limited to, direct and indirect costs, that the United States incurs in reviewing or developing plans, reports and other items pursuant to this Consent Decree, verifying the Work, or otherwise implementing, overseeing or enforcing this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to, payroll costs, contractor costs, travel costs, laboratory costs, the costs incurred pursuant to Section VII, IX (including, but not limited to, the costs of attorney time and any monies paid to secure access and/or to secure or implement institutional controls including, but not limited to, the amount of just compensation), XV, and Paragraph 81 (Work Takeover) of Section XX.

"Interest" shall mean interest at the rate specified for interest on investments of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26 U.S.C. Section 9507, compounded annually on October 1 of each year, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section 9607(a). The applicable rate of interest shall be the rate in effect at the time the interest accrues. The rate of interest is subject to change on October 1 of each year.

"NJDEP" shall mean the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection" and any successor departments or agencies of the State.

"National Contingency Plan" or "NCP" shall mean the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan promulgated pursuant to Section 105 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9605, codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 300, and any amendments thereto.

"Operation and Maintenance" or "O & M" shall mean all activities required to maintain the effectiveness of the Remedial Action as required under the Operation and Maintenance Plan approved or developed by EPA pursuant to this Consent Decree and the Statement of Work (SOW).

"Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by an Arabic numeral or an upper case letter.

"Parties" shall mean the United States and the Settling Defendant.

"Past Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including, but not limited to, direct and indirect costs, that the United States paid at or in connection with the Site prior to the date this Consent Decree is lodged, plus Interest on all such costs which has accrued pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 9607(a) through such date.

"Performance Standards" shall mean the cleanup standards and other measures of achievement of the goals of the Remedial Action as set forth in the "Remedial Action Objectives" section and Table 14 of the ROD; the ESD; and Section II of the SOW.

"Plaintiff" shall mean the United States.

"RCRA" shall mean the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901 *et seq.* (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).

"Record of Decision" or "ROD" shall mean the EPA Record of Decision relating to the Site signed on September 30, 1997, by the Regional Administrator, EPA Region 2, or her delegate, and all attachments thereto. The ROD is attached as Appendix B.

"Remedial Action" shall mean those activities, except for Operation and Maintenance, to be undertaken by the Settling Defendant to implement the ESD in accordance with the SOW and the final Remedial Design and Remedial Action Work Plans and other plans approved by EPA.

"Remedial Action Work Plan" shall mean the document developed pursuant to Paragraph 11 of this Consent Decree and approved by EPA, and any amendments thereto.

"Remedial Design" shall mean those activities to be undertaken by the Settling Defendant to develop the final plans and specifications for the Remedial Action pursuant to the Remedial Design Work Plan.

"Remedial Design Work Plan" shall mean the document developed pursuant to Paragraph 10 of this Consent Decree and approved by EPA, and any amendments thereto.

"Section" shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by a Roman numeral.

"Settling Defendant" shall mean the entity FMC Corporation, which has its principal place of business at 1735 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

"Site" shall mean the Higgins Disposal Superfund Site, encompassing approximately 38 acres, located at 121 Laurel Avenue in Kingston, Somerset County, New Jersey, and depicted generally on the map attached as Appendix C.

"State" shall mean the State of New Jersey.

"Statement of Work" or "SOW" shall mean the statement of work for implementation of the Remedial Design, Remedial Action, and Operation and Maintenance at the Site, as set forth in Appendix D to this Consent Decree and any modifications made in accordance with this Consent Decree.

"Supervising Contractor" shall mean the principal contractor retained by the Settling Defendant to supervise and direct the implementation of the Work under this Consent Decree.

"United States" shall mean the United States of America.

"Waste Material" shall mean (1) any "hazardous substance" under Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14); (2) any pollutant or contaminant under Section 101(33), 42 U.S.C. § 9601(33); and (3) any "solid waste" under Section 1004(27) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(27).

"Work" shall mean all activities Settling Defendant is required to perform under this Consent Decree, except those required by Section XXIV (Retention of Records).

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

5. Objectives of the Parties. The objectives of the Parties in entering into this Consent Decree are to protect public health or welfare or the environment at the Site by the design and implementation of response actions at the Site by the Settling Defendant.

6. Commitments by Settling Defendant. Settling Defendant shall finance and perform the Work in accordance with this Consent Decree; the "Remedial Action Objectives" and Table 14 of the ROD; the ESD; the SOW; and all work plans and other plans, standards, specifications, and schedules set forth herein or developed by Settling Defendant and approved by EPA pursuant to this Consent Decree.

7. Compliance With Applicable Law. All activities undertaken by Settling Defendant pursuant to this Consent Decree shall be performed in accordance with the requirements of all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Settling Defendant must also comply with all applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements of all Federal and State environmental laws as set forth in the ROD, ESD and the SOW. The activities conducted pursuant to this Consent Decree, if approved by EPA, shall be considered to be consistent with the NCP.

8. Permits.

a. As provided in Section 121(e) of CERCLA and Section 300.400(e) of the NCP, no permit shall be required for any portion of the Work conducted entirely on-site (i.e., within the areal extent of contamination or in very close proximity to the contamination and necessary for implementation of the Work). Where any portion of the Work that is not on-site requires a federal or state permit or approval, Settling Defendant shall submit timely and complete applications and take all other actions necessary to obtain all such permits or approvals.

b. The Settling Defendant may seek relief under the provisions of Section XVII (Force Majeure) of this Consent Decree for any delay in the performance of the Work resulting from a failure to obtain, or a delay in obtaining, any permit required for the Work.

c. This Consent Decree is not, and shall not be construed to be, a permit issued pursuant to any federal or state statute or regulation.

VI. PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK BY SETTLING DEFENDANT

9. Selection of Supervising Contractor.

a. All aspects of the Work to be performed by Settling Defendant pursuant to Sections VI (Performance of the Work by Settling Defendant), VII (Remedy Review), VIII (Quality Assurance, Sampling and Data Analysis), and XV (Emergency Response) of this Consent Decree shall be under the direction and supervision of the Supervising Contractor, the selection of which shall be subject to disapproval by EPA. Within seven (7) days after the lodging of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall notify EPA in writing of the name, title, and qualifications of any contractor proposed to be the Supervising Contractor. With respect to any contractor proposed to be Supervising Contractor, Settling Defendant shall demonstrate that the proposed contractor has a quality system that complies with ANSI/ASQC E4-1994, "Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs." (American National Standard, January 5, 1995), by submitting a copy of the proposed contractor's Quality Management Plan (QMP). The QMP should be prepared in accordance with "EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (QA/R-2)" (EPA/240/B-01/002, March 2001) or equivalent documentation as determined by EPA. EPA will issue a notice of disapproval or an authorization to proceed. If at any time

thereafter, Settling Defendant proposes to change a Supervising Contractor, Settling Defendant shall give such notice to EPA and must obtain an authorization to proceed from EPA before the new Supervising Contractor performs, directs, or supervises any Work under this Consent Decree.

b. If EPA disapproves a proposed Supervising Contractor, EPA will notify Settling Defendant in writing. Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA a list of contractors, including the qualifications of each contractor, that would be acceptable to it within thirty (30) days of receipt of EPA's disapproval of the contractor previously proposed. EPA will provide written notice of the names of any contractor(s) that it disapproves and an authorization to proceed with respect to any of the other contractors. Settling Defendant may select any contractor from that list that is not disapproved and shall notify EPA of the name of the contractor selected within fifteen (15) days of EPA's authorization to proceed.

c. If EPA fails to provide written notice of its authorization to proceed or disapproval as provided in this Paragraph and this failure prevents the Settling Defendant from meeting one or more deadlines in a plan approved by the EPA pursuant to this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant may seek relief under the provisions of Section XVII (Force Majeure) hereof.

10. Pre-Remedial and Remedial Design.

a. All pre-Remedial Design activities shall include, at a minimum, the pre-Remedial Design tasks identified in the SOW.

b. Within thirty (30) days after EPA's issuance of an authorization to proceed pursuant to Paragraph 9, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA a work plan for the design of the Remedial Action at the Site ("Remedial Design Work Plan" or "RD Work Plan"). The Remedial Design Work Plan shall provide for design of the remedy set forth in the ESD, in accordance with the SOW and for achievement of the Performance Standards and other requirements set forth in the applicable sections of the ROD, the ESD, this Consent Decree and/or the SOW. Upon its approval by EPA, the Remedial Design Work Plan shall be incorporated into and become enforceable under this Consent Decree. Within fifteen (15) days after EPA's issuance of an authorization to proceed, the Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA a Health and Safety Plan for field design activities which conforms to the applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration and EPA requirements including, but not limited to, 29 C.F.R. § 1910.120.

c. The Remedial Design Work Plan shall include plans and schedules for implementation of all remedial design and pre-design tasks identified in the SOW.

d. Upon approval of the Remedial Design Work Plan by EPA, and submittal of the Health and Safety Plan for all field activities to EPA, Settling Defendant shall conduct the Remedial Design work in accordance with the SOW, the ESD and the Remedial Design Work Plan. The Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA all plans, submittals and other deliverables required under the approved Remedial Design Work Plan in accordance with the approved schedule for review and approval pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions). Unless otherwise directed by EPA, Settling Defendant shall not commence further Remedial Design activities at the Site prior to approval of the Remedial Design Work Plan.

e. The preliminary design submittal shall include, at a minimum, the preliminary design requirements identified in the SOW.

f. The intermediate design submittals, if required by EPA or if independently submitted by the Settling Defendant, shall be a continuation and expansion of the preliminary design. Any value engineering proposals must be identified and evaluated during this review.

g. The pre-final/final design submittal shall include, at a minimum, the pre-final/final design requirements identified in the SOW.

11. Remedial Action.

a. Within sixty (60) days after the approval of the final design submittal, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA a work plan for the performance of the Remedial Action at the Site ("Remedial Action Work Plan"). The Remedial Action Work Plan shall provide for construction and implementation of the remedy set forth in the ESD and achievement of the Performance Standards, in accordance with this Consent Decree, the applicable sections of the ROD, the ESD, the SOW, and the design plans and specifications developed in accordance with the Remedial Design Work Plan and approved by EPA. Upon its approval by EPA, the Remedial Action Work Plan shall be incorporated into and become enforceable under this Consent Decree. At the same time it submits the Remedial Action Work Plan, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA a Health and Safety Plan for field activities required by the Remedial Action Work Plan, which conforms to the applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration and EPA requirements including, but not limited to, 29 C.F.R. Section 1910.120.

b. The Remedial Action Work Plan shall include plans and schedules for implementation of all remedial action tasks identified in the SOW.

c. Upon approval of the Remedial Action Work Plan by EPA, Settling Defendant shall implement the Remedial Action, including all activities required under the Remedial Action Work Plan in accordance with the SOW, the ESD, the Remedial Action Work Plan, and other plans and schedules developed and approved thereunder. The Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA all plans, submittals, or other deliverables required under the approved Remedial Action Work Plan in accordance with the approved schedule for review and approval pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions). Unless otherwise directed by EPA, Settling Defendant shall not commence physical Remedial Action activities at the Site prior to approval of the Remedial Action Work Plan.

12. a. The Settling Defendant shall continue to implement the Remedial Action and O&M, in accordance with the SOW, the ESD, and other plans and schedules developed and approved thereunder, until the Performance Standards are achieved and for so long thereafter as is otherwise required under this Consent Decree. Upon approval of the O&M Plan, it shall be incorporated into and become an enforceable part of this Consent Decree.

13. Modification of the SOW or Related Work Plans.

a. If EPA determines that modification to the work specified in the SOW and/or in work plans developed pursuant to the SOW is necessary to achieve and maintain the Performance Standards or to carry out and maintain the effectiveness of the remedy set forth in the ESD, EPA may require that such modification be incorporated in the SOW and/or such work.

plans, provided, however, that a modification may only be required pursuant to this Paragraph to the extent that it is consistent with the scope of the remedy described in the ESD.

b. For the purposes of this Paragraph 13 and Paragraph 48 only, the "scope of the remedy described in the ESD" is: (1) Extraction and treatment of contaminated ground water utilizing flocculation, clarification, filtration, granular activated carbon (GAC) units and final pH adjustment; (2) ReInjection of the treated effluent into the overburden water-bearing zone; (3) Performing groundwater sampling with on-site monitoring wells, sentinel wells and residential wells to ensure that the contamination concentrations are being reduced on-site; (4) Establishing a classification exemption area (CEA) for impacted ground water until constituent concentrations in ground water meet the New Jersey Water Quality Standards; and (5) Operation and Maintenance and long-term monitoring related to the Work.

c. If Settling Defendant objects to any modification determined by EPA to be necessary pursuant to this Paragraph, it may seek dispute resolution pursuant to Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution), Paragraph 62 (record review). The SOW and/or related work plans shall be modified in accordance with final resolution of the dispute.

d. Settling Defendant shall implement any work required by any modifications incorporated in the SOW and/or in work plans developed pursuant to the SOW in accordance with this Paragraph.

e. Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to limit EPA's authority to require performance of further response actions as otherwise provided in this Consent Decree.

14. Settling Defendant acknowledges and agrees that nothing in this Consent Decree, the SOW, or the Remedial Design or Remedial Action Work Plans constitutes a warranty or representation of any kind by Plaintiff that compliance with the work requirements set forth in the SOW and the Work Plans will achieve the Performance Standards.

15. a. Settling Defendant shall, prior to any off-site shipment of Waste Material from the Site to an out-of-state waste management facility, provide written notification to the appropriate state environmental official in the receiving facility's state and to the EPA Project Coordinator of such shipment of Waste Material. However, this notification requirement shall not apply to any off-site shipments when the total volume of all such shipments will not exceed 10 cubic yards.

(1) The Settling Defendant shall include in the written notification the following information, where available: (i) the name and location of the facility to which the Waste Material is to be shipped; (ii) the type and quantity of the Waste Material to be shipped; (iii) the expected schedule for the shipment of the Waste Material; and (iv) the method of transportation. The Settling Defendant shall notify the state in which the planned receiving facility is located of major changes in the shipment plan, such as a decision to ship the Waste Material to another facility within the same state, or to a facility in another state.

(2) The identity of the receiving facility and state will be determined by the Settling Defendant following the award of the contract for Remedial Action construction. The Settling Defendant shall provide the information required by Paragraph 15.a as soon as practicable after the award of the contract and before the Waste Material is actually shipped.

b. Before shipping any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from the Site to an off-site location, Settling Defendant shall obtain EPA's certification that the proposed receiving facility is operating in compliance with the requirements of CERCLA Section 121(d)(3) and 40 C.F.R. 300.440. Settling Defendant shall only send hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from the Site to an off-site facility that complies with the requirements of the statutory provision and regulations cited in the preceding sentence.

VII. REMEDY REVIEW

16. Periodic Review. Settling Defendant shall conduct any studies and investigations as requested by EPA, in order to permit EPA to conduct reviews of whether the Remedial Action is protective of human health and the environment at least every five years as required by Section 121(c) of CERCLA and any applicable regulations.

17. EPA Selection of Further Response Actions. If EPA determines, at any time, that the Remedial Action is not protective of human health and the environment, EPA may select further response actions for the Site in accordance with the requirements of CERCLA and the NCP.

18. Opportunity To Comment. Settling Defendant and, if required by Sections 113(k)(2) or 117 of CERCLA, the public, will be provided with an opportunity to comment on any further response actions proposed by EPA as a result of the review conducted pursuant to Section 121(c) of CERCLA and to submit written comments for the record during the comment period.

19. Settling Defendant's Obligation To Perform Further Response Actions. If EPA selects further response actions for the Site, the Settling Defendant shall undertake such further response actions to the extent that the reopener conditions in Paragraph 77 or Paragraph 78 (United States' reservations of liability based on unknown conditions or new information) are satisfied. Settling Defendant may invoke the procedures set forth in Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution) to dispute (1) EPA's determination that the reopener conditions of Paragraph 77 or Paragraph 78 of Section XX (Covenants Not To Sue by Plaintiff) are satisfied, (2) EPA's determination that the Remedial Action is not protective of human health and the environment, or (3) EPA's selection of the further response actions. Disputes pertaining to the whether the Remedial Action is protective or to EPA's selection of further response actions shall be resolved pursuant to Paragraph 62 (record review).

20. Submissions of Plans. If Settling Defendant is required to perform the further response actions pursuant to Paragraph 19, they shall submit a plan for such work to EPA for approval in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section VI (Performance of the Work by Settling Defendant) and shall implement the plan approved by EPA in accordance with the provisions of this Decree.

VIII. QUALITY ASSURANCE, SAMPLING, AND DATA ANALYSIS

21. Settling Defendant shall use quality assurance, quality control, and chain of custody procedures for all treatability, design, compliance and monitoring samples in accordance with "EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R5)" (EPA/240/B-01/003, March 2001) "Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/G-5)" (EPA/600/R-98/018,

February 1998), and subsequent amendments to such guidelines upon notification by EPA to Settling Defendant of such amendment. Amended guidelines shall apply only to procedures conducted after such notification. Prior to the commencement of any monitoring project under this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA for approval, a Quality Assurance Project Plan ("QAPP") that is consistent with the SOW and the NCP. If relevant to the proceeding, the Parties agree that validated sampling data generated in accordance with the QAPP(s) and reviewed and approved by EPA shall be admissible as evidence, without objection, in any proceeding under this Decree. Settling Defendant shall ensure that EPA personnel and its authorized representatives are allowed access at reasonable times to all laboratories utilized by Settling Defendant in implementing this Consent Decree. In addition, Settling Defendant shall ensure that such laboratories shall analyze all samples submitted by EPA pursuant to the QAPP for quality assurance monitoring. Settling Defendant shall ensure that the laboratories they utilize for the analysis of samples taken pursuant to this Decree perform all analyses according to accepted EPA methods. Accepted EPA methods consist of those methods which are documented in the ["Contract Lab Program Statement of Work for Inorganic Analysis" and the "Contract Lab Program Statement of Work for Organic Analysis," dated February 1988], and any amendments made thereto during the course of the implementation of this Decree; however, upon approval by EPA the Settling Defendant may use other analytical methods which are as stringent as or more stringent than the CLP- approved methods. Settling Defendant shall ensure that all laboratories they use for analysis of samples taken pursuant to this Consent Decree participate in an EPA or EPA-equivalent QA/QC program. Settling Defendant shall only use laboratories that have a documented Quality System which complies with ANSI/ASQC E4-1994, "Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs," (American National Standard, January 5, 1995), and "EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (QA/R-2)," (EPA/240/B-01/002, March 2001) or equivalent documentation as determined by EPA. EPA may consider laboratories accredited under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) as meeting the Quality System requirements. Settling Defendant shall ensure that all field methodologies utilized in collecting samples for subsequent analysis pursuant to this Decree will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in the QAPP approved by EPA.

22. Upon request, the Settling Defendant shall allow split or duplicate samples to be taken by EPA or its authorized representatives. Settling Defendant shall notify EPA not less than twenty-eight (28) days in advance of any sample collection activity unless shorter notice is agreed to by EPA. In addition, EPA shall have the right to take any additional samples that EPA deems necessary. Upon request, EPA shall allow the Settling Defendant to take split or duplicate samples of any samples it takes as part of the Plaintiff's oversight of the Settling Defendant's implementation of the Work.

23. Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA two (2) copies of the results of all sampling and/or tests or other data obtained or generated by or on behalf of Settling Defendant with respect to the Site and/or the implementation of this Consent Decree unless EPA agrees otherwise.

24. Notwithstanding any provision of this Consent Decree, the United States hereby retains all of its information gathering and inspection authorities and rights, including

enforcement actions related thereto, under CERCLA, RCRA and any other applicable statutes or regulations.

IX. ACCESS AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS

25. If the Site, or any other property where access and/or land/water use restrictions are needed to implement this Consent Decree, is owned or controlled by persons other than the Settling Defendant, Settling Defendant shall use best efforts to secure from such persons:

a. an agreement to provide access at all reasonable times to the Site, or other such property, for the United States and its representatives, including EPA and its representatives (including contractors), for the purpose of conducting any activity related to this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to the following activities:

- (1) Monitoring the Work;
- (2) Verifying any data or information submitted to the United States;
- (3) Conducting investigations relating to contamination at or near the Site;
- (4) Obtaining samples;
- (5) Assessing the need for, planning, or implementing additional response actions at or near the Site;
- (6) Assessing implementation of quality assurance and quality control practices as defined in the approved Quality Assurance Project Plans;
- (7) Implementing the Work pursuant to the conditions set forth in Paragraph 81 of this Consent Decree;
- (8) Inspecting and copying records, operating logs, contracts, or other documents maintained or generated by Settling Defendant or its agents, consistent with Section XXIII (Access to Information);
- (9) Assessing Settling Defendant's compliance with this Consent Decree; and
- (10) Determining whether the Site or other property is being used in a manner that is prohibited or restricted, or that may need to be prohibited or restricted, by or pursuant to this Consent Decree; and

b. an agreement, enforceable by the Settling Defendant and the United States, to refrain from using the Site, or such other property, in any manner that would interfere with or adversely affect the implementation, integrity, or protectiveness of the remedial measures to be performed pursuant to this Consent Decree. Such restrictions include, but are not limited to, the installation of fencing to prevent access to the treatment plant and the two flush mounted recovery wells by unauthorized personnel.

c. the execution and recordation in the County Clerk's office of Somerset County, State of New Jersey, an easement, running with the land, that (i) grants a right of access for the purpose of conducting any activity related to this Consent Decree including, but not

limited to, those activities listed in Paragraph 25.a of this Consent Decree, and (ii) grants the right to enforce the land/water restrictions listed in Paragraph 25.b of this Consent Decree, or other restrictions that EPA determines are necessary to implement, ensure non-interference with, or ensure the protectiveness of the remedial measures to be performed pursuant to this Consent Decree. The access rights and/or rights to enforce the land/water use restrictions shall be granted to the (i) United States, on behalf of EPA, and its representatives, (ii) the State and its representatives, (iii) the Settling Defendant and its representatives, and/or other appropriate grantees as determined by EPA. If EPA so requests, Settling Defendant shall, within forty-five (45) days of EPA's request, submit to EPA for review and approval with respect to such property:

(1) A draft easement, in substantially the form attached hereto as Appendix E, that is enforceable under the laws of the State of New Jersey, and

(2) A current title insurance commitment of some other evidence of title acceptable to EPA, which shows title to the land described in the easement to be free and clear of all prior liens and encumbrances (except when those liens or encumbrances are approved by EPA or when, despite best efforts, Settling Defendant is unable to obtain release or subordination of such prior liens or encumbrances).

Within fifteen (15) days of EPA's approval and acceptance of the easement and the title evidence, Settling Defendant shall update the title search and, if it is determined that nothing has occurred since the effective date of the commitment to affect the title adversely, the easement shall be recorded with the County Clerk of Somerset County. Within thirty (30) days of the recording the easement, Settling defendant shall provide EPA with a final title insurance policy, or other final evidence of title acceptable to EPA, and a certified copy of the original recorded easement showing the clerk's recording stamps. If the easement is to be conveyed to the United States, the easement and title evidence (including final title evidence) shall be prepared in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice Title Standards 2001, and approval of the sufficiency of title must be obtained as required by 40 U.S.C. Section 255.

26. If (a) any access or land/water use restriction agreements required by Paragraph 25.a. or 25.b of this Consent Decree are not obtained within forty-five (45) days of the date of entry of this Consent Decree, (b) any access easements or restrictive easements required by Paragraph 25.c of this Consent Decree are not submitted to EPA in draft form within forty-five (45) days of EPA's request for such an easement, or (c) Settling Defendant is unable to obtain an agreement pursuant to Paragraph 25.c.(1) from the holder of a prior lien or encumbrance to release or subordinate such lien or encumbrance to the easement being created pursuant to this Consent Decree within forty-five (45) days of the date of entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall promptly notify the United States in writing, and shall include in that notification a summary of the steps that Settling Defendant has taken to attempt to comply with Paragraph 25 of this Consent Decree. The United States may, as it deems appropriate, assist Settling Defendant in obtaining access or land/water use restrictions, either in the form of contractual agreements or in the form of easements running with the land, or in obtaining the release or subordination of a prior lien or encumbrance. Settling Defendant shall reimburse the United States for all costs incurred, direct or indirect, by the United States in obtaining such access, land/water use

restrictions, and/or the release/subordination of prior liens or encumbrances including, but not limited to, the cost of attorney time and the amount of monetary consideration paid or just compensation.

27. If EPA determines that land/water use restrictions in the form of state or local laws, regulations, ordinances or other governmental controls are needed to implement the remedy described in the ESD, ensure the integrity and protectiveness thereof, or ensure non-interference therewith, Settling Defendant shall cooperate with EPA's efforts to secure such governmental controls.

28. Notwithstanding any provision of this Consent Decree, the United States retains all of its access authorities and rights, as well as all of its rights to require land/water use restrictions, including enforcement authorities related thereto, under CERCLA, RCRA and any other applicable statute or regulations.

X. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

29. In addition to any other requirement of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall submit to EPA two (2) copies of written monthly progress reports that comply with the requirements for the written monthly progress reports as described in the SOW.

30. The Settling Defendant shall notify EPA of any change in the schedule described in the monthly progress report for the performance of any activity, including, but not limited to, data collection and implementation of work plans, no later than seven (7) days prior to the performance of the activity.

31. Upon the occurrence of any event during performance of the Work that Settling Defendant are required to report pursuant to Section 103 of CERCLA or Section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA), Settling Defendant shall within 24 hours of the onset of such event orally notify the EPA Remedial Project Manager or, in the event that the EPA Remedial Project Manager is unavailable, contact the EPA Region 2 spill line at 732-548-8730. These reporting requirements are in addition to the reporting required by CERCLA Section 103 or EPCRA Section 304.

32. Within twenty (20) days of the onset of such an event, Settling Defendant shall furnish to Plaintiff a written report, signed by the Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator, setting forth the events which occurred and the measures taken, and to be taken, in response thereto. Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of such an event, Settling Defendant shall submit a report setting forth all actions taken in response thereto.

33. Settling Defendant shall submit two (2) copies of all plans, reports, and data required by the SOW, the Remedial Design Work Plan, the Remedial Action Work Plan, or any other approved plans to EPA in accordance with the schedules set forth in such plans. Upon request by EPA, Settling Defendant shall submit in electronic form all portions of any report or other deliverable Settling Defendant is required to submit pursuant to the provisions of this Consent Decree.

34. All reports and other documents submitted by Settling Defendant to EPA (other than the monthly progress reports referred to above) which purport to document Settling

Defendant's compliance with the terms of this Consent Decree shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Settling Defendant.

XI. EPA APPROVAL OF PLANS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS

35. After review of any plan, report or other item which is required to be submitted for approval pursuant to this Consent Decree, EPA, shall: (a) approve, in whole or in part, the submission; (b) approve the submission upon specified conditions; (c) modify the submission to cure the deficiencies; (d) disapprove, in whole or in part, the submission, directing that the Settling Defendant modify the submission; or (e) any combination of the above. However, EPA shall not modify a submission without first providing Settling Defendant at least one notice of deficiency and an opportunity to cure within fourteen (14) days, except where to do so would cause serious disruption to the Work or where previous submission(s) have been disapproved due to material defects and the deficiencies in the submission under consideration indicate a bad faith lack of effort to submit an acceptable deliverable.

36. In the event of approval, approval upon conditions, or modification by EPA, pursuant to Paragraph 35(a), (b), or (c), Settling Defendant shall proceed to take any action required by the plan, report, or other item, as approved or modified by EPA subject only to their right to invoke the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution) with respect to the modifications or conditions made by EPA. In the event that EPA modifies the submission to cure the deficiencies pursuant to Paragraph 35(c) and the submission has a material defect, EPA retains its right to seek stipulated penalties, as provided in Section XIX (Stipulated Penalties).

37. Resubmission of Plans.

a. Upon receipt of a notice of disapproval pursuant to Paragraph 35(d), Settling Defendant shall, within fourteen (14) days or such longer time as specified by EPA in such notice, correct the deficiencies and resubmit the plan, report, or other item for approval. Any stipulated penalties applicable to the submission, as provided in Section XIX (Stipulated Penalties), shall accrue during the fourteen (14) day period or otherwise specified period but shall not be payable unless the resubmission is disapproved or modified due to a material defect as provided in Paragraphs 38 and 39.

b. Notwithstanding the receipt of a notice of disapproval pursuant to Paragraph 35(d), Settling Defendant shall proceed, at the direction of EPA, to take any action required by any non-deficient portion of the submission. Implementation of any non-deficient portion of a submission shall not relieve Settling Defendant of any liability for stipulated penalties under Section XIX (Stipulated Penalties).

38. In the event that a resubmitted plan, report or other item, or portion thereof, is disapproved by EPA, EPA may again require the Settling Defendant to correct the deficiencies, in accordance with the preceding Paragraphs. EPA also retains the right to modify or develop the plan, report or other item. Settling Defendant shall implement any such plan, report, or item as modified or developed by EPA, subject only to their right to invoke the procedures set forth in Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution).

39. If upon resubmission, a plan, report, or item is disapproved or modified by EPA due to a material defect, Settling Defendant shall be deemed to have failed to submit such plan, report, or item timely and adequately unless the Settling Defendant invokes the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution) and EPA's action is overturned pursuant to that Section. The provisions of Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution) and Section XIX (Stipulated Penalties) shall govern the implementation of the Work and accrual and payment of any stipulated penalties during Dispute Resolution. If EPA's disapproval or modification is upheld, stipulated penalties shall accrue for such violation from the date on which the initial submission was originally required, as provided in Section XIX (Stipulated Penalties).

40. All plans, reports, and other items required to be submitted to EPA under this Consent Decree shall, upon approval or modification by EPA, be enforceable under this Consent Decree. In the event EPA approves or modifies a portion of a plan, report, or other item required to be submitted to EPA under this Consent Decree, the approved or modified portion shall be enforceable under this Consent Decree.

XII. PROJECT COORDINATORS

41. Within fifteen (15) days of lodging this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant and EPA will notify each other, in writing, of the name, address and telephone number of their respective designated Project Coordinators or Remedial Project Manager or Alternate Project Coordinators if required. If a Project Coordinator or Remedial Project Manager or Alternate Project Coordinator initially designated is changed, the identity of the successor will be given to the other Party at least five (5) working days before the changes occur, unless impracticable, but in no event later than the actual day the change is made. The Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator shall be subject to disapproval by EPA and shall have the technical expertise sufficient to adequately oversee all aspects of the Work. The Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator shall not be an attorney for the Settling Defendant in this matter. He or she may assign other representatives, including other contractors, to serve as a Site representative for oversight of performance of daily operations during remedial activities.

42. Plaintiff may designate other representatives, including, but not limited to, EPA employees, and federal contractors and consultants, to observe and monitor the progress of any activity undertaken pursuant to this Consent Decree. EPA's Remedial Project Manager shall have the authority lawfully vested in a Remedial Project Manager (RPM) and an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) by the National Contingency Plan, 40 C.F.R. Part 300. In addition, EPA's Remedial Project Manager shall have authority, consistent with the National Contingency Plan, to halt any Work required by this Consent Decree and to take any necessary response action when s/he determines that conditions at the Site constitute an emergency situation or may present an immediate threat to public health or welfare or the environment due to release or threatened release of Waste Material.

43. EPA's Remedial Project Manager and the Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator will meet on an "as-needed" basis.

XIII. ASSURANCE OF ABILITY TO COMPLETE WORK

44. Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall establish and maintain financial security in the amount of \$3,000,000 in one or more of the

following forms in order to secure the full and final completion of Work by the Settling Defendant:

- a. A surety bond guaranteeing performance of the Work;
- b. One or more irrevocable letters of credit equaling the total estimated cost of the Work;
- c. A trust fund administered by a trustee acceptable in all respects to the United States;
- d. A guarantee to perform the Work by one or more parent corporations or subsidiaries, or by one or more unrelated corporations that have a substantial business relationship with the Settling Defendant;
- e. A demonstration that the Settling Defendant satisfies the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 264.143(f). References in 40 CFR 264.143 (f) to the "sum of current closure and post-closure costs estimates and the current plugging and abandonment costs estimates" shall mean \$3,000,000 for the purposes of this Section.

45. If the Settling Defendant seeks to demonstrate the ability to complete the Work through a guarantee by a third party pursuant to Paragraph 44.d of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall demonstrate that the guarantor satisfies the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 264.143(f). If Settling Defendant seeks to demonstrate its ability to complete the Work by means of the financial test or the corporate guarantee pursuant to Paragraph 44.d or 44.e, they shall resubmit sworn statements conveying the information required by 40 C.F.R. Part 264.143(f) annually, on the anniversary of the Effective Date. In the event that EPA determines at any time that the financial assurances provided pursuant to this Section are inadequate, Settling Defendant shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice of EPA's determination, obtain and present to EPA for approval one of the other forms of financial assurance listed in Paragraph 44 of this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant's inability to demonstrate financial ability to complete the Work shall not excuse performance of any activities required under this Consent Decree.

46. If Settling Defendant can show that the estimated cost to complete the remaining Work has diminished below the amount set forth in Paragraph 44 above after entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant may, on any anniversary date of entry of this Consent Decree, or at any other time agreed to by the Parties, reduce the amount of the financial security provided under this Section to the estimated cost of the remaining work to be performed. Settling Defendant shall submit a proposal for such reduction to EPA, in accordance with the requirements of this Section, and may reduce the amount of the security upon approval by EPA. In the event of a dispute, Settling Defendant may reduce the amount of the security in accordance with the final administrative or judicial decision resolving the dispute.

47. Settling Defendant may change the form of financial assurance provided under this Section at any time, upon notice to and approval by EPA, provided that the new form of assurance meets the requirements of this Section. In the event of a dispute, Settling Defendant may change the form of the financial assurance only in accordance with the final administrative or judicial decision resolving the dispute.

XIV. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION

48. Completion of the Remedial Action:

a. Within ninety (90) days after Settling Defendant concludes that the Remedial Action has been fully performed, Settling Defendant shall schedule and conduct a pre-certification inspection to be attended by Settling Defendant and EPA. If, after the pre-certification inspection, the Settling Defendant still believes that the Remedial Action has been fully performed, it shall submit a written report requesting certification to EPA for approval pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions) within thirty (30) days of the inspection. In the report, a registered professional engineer and the Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator shall state that the Remedial Action has been completed in full satisfaction of the requirements of this Consent Decree. The written report shall include as-built drawings signed and stamped by a professional engineer. The report shall contain the following statement, signed by a responsible corporate official of a Settling Defendant or the Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator:

To the best of my knowledge, after thorough investigation, I certify that the information contained in or accompanying this submission is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

If, after completion of the pre-certification inspection and receipt and review of the written report, EPA determines that the Remedial Action or any portion thereof has not been completed in accordance with this Consent Decree, EPA will notify Settling Defendant in writing of the activities that must be undertaken by Settling Defendant pursuant to this Consent Decree to complete the Remedial Action, provided, however, that EPA may only require Settling Defendant to perform such activities pursuant to this Paragraph to the extent that such activities are consistent with the "scope of the remedy described in the ESD," as that term is defined in Paragraph 13.b. EPA will set forth in the notice a schedule for performance of such activities consistent with the Consent Decree and the SOW or require the Settling Defendant to submit a schedule to EPA for approval pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions). Settling Defendant shall perform all activities described in the notice in accordance with the specifications and schedules established pursuant to this Paragraph, subject to their right to invoke the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution).

b. If EPA concludes, based on the initial or any subsequent report requesting Certification of Completion that the Remedial Action has been performed in accordance with this Consent Decree, EPA will so certify in writing to Settling Defendant. This certification shall constitute the Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action for purposes of this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to, Section XX (Covenants Not to Sue by Plaintiff). Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action shall not affect Settling Defendant's obligations under this Consent Decree.

49. Completion of the Work.

a. Within ninety (90) days after Settling Defendant concludes that all phases of the Work (including O & M), have been fully performed and the Performance Standards have been attained, Settling Defendant shall schedule and conduct a pre-certification inspection to be attended by Settling Defendant and EPA. If, after the pre-certification inspection, the Settling Defendant still believes that the Work has been fully performed and the Performance Standards have been attained, Settling Defendant shall submit a written report by a registered professional engineer stating that the Work has been completed in full satisfaction of the requirements of this Consent Decree. The report shall contain the following statement, signed by a responsible corporate official of the Settling Defendant or the Settling Defendant's Project Coordinator:

To the best of my knowledge, after thorough investigation, I certify that the information contained in or accompanying this submission is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

If, after review of the written report, EPA determines that any portion of the Work has not been completed in accordance with this Consent Decree, EPA will notify Settling Defendant in writing of the activities that must be undertaken by Settling Defendant pursuant to this Consent Decree to complete the Work, provided, however, that EPA may only require Settling Defendant to perform such activities pursuant to this Paragraph to the extent that such activities are consistent with the "scope of the remedy described in the ESD," as that term is defined in Paragraph 13.b. EPA will set forth in the notice a schedule for performance of such activities consistent with the Consent Decree and the SOW or require the Settling Defendant to submit a schedule to EPA for approval pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions). Settling Defendant shall perform all activities described in the notice in accordance with the specifications and schedules established therein, subject to their right to invoke the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution).

b. If EPA concludes, based on the initial or any subsequent request for Certification of Completion by Settling Defendant that the Work has been performed in accordance with this Consent Decree and that the Performance Standards have been achieved, EPA will so notify the Settling Defendant in writing.

XV. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

50. In the event of any action or occurrence during the performance of the Work which causes or threatens a release of Waste Material from the Site that constitutes an emergency situation or may present an immediate threat to public health or welfare or the environment, Settling Defendant shall, subject to Paragraph 51, immediately take all appropriate action to prevent, abate, or minimize such release or threat of release, and shall immediately notify the EPA's Remedial Project Manager. If the Remedial Project Manager is unavailable, the Settling Defendant shall notify the EPA Region 2 spill line at 732-548-8730. Settling Defendant shall take such actions in consultation with EPA's Remedial Project Manager or other available authorized EPA officer and in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Health and Safety Plans, the Contingency Plans, and any other applicable plans or documents developed pursuant to

the SOW. In the event that Settling Defendant fails to take appropriate response action as required by this Section, and EPA takes such action instead, Settling Defendant shall reimburse EPA all costs of the response action not inconsistent with the N.C.P.

51. Nothing in the preceding Paragraph or in this Consent Decree shall be deemed to limit any authority of the United States a) to take all appropriate action to protect human health and the environment or to prevent, abate, respond to, or minimize an actual or threatened release of Waste Material on, at, or from the Site, or b) to direct or order such action, or seek an order from the Court, to protect human health and the environment or to prevent, abate, respond to, or minimize an actual or threatened release of Waste Material on, at, or from the Site, subject to Section XX (Covenants Not to Sue by Plaintiff).

XVI. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

52. Settling Defendant's Indemnification of the United States

a. The United States does not assume any liability by entering into this agreement or by virtue of any designation of Settling Defendant as EPA's authorized representatives under Section 104(e) of CERCLA. Settling Defendant shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the United States and its officials, agents, employees, contractors, subcontractors, or representatives for or from any and all claims or causes of action arising from, or on account of, negligent or other wrongful acts or omissions of Settling Defendant, its officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and any persons acting on their behalf or under their control, in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to, any claims arising from any designation of Settling Defendant as EPA's authorized representatives under Section 104(e) of CERCLA. Further, the Settling Defendant agrees to pay the United States all costs it incurs including, but not limited to, attorneys fees and other expenses of litigation and settlement arising from, or on account of, claims made against the United States based on negligent or other wrongful acts or omissions of Settling Defendant, its officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and any persons acting on their behalf or under their control, in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Decree. The United States shall not be held out as a party to any contract entered into by or on behalf of Settling Defendant in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Decree. Neither the Settling Defendant nor any such contractor shall be considered an agent of the United States.

b. The United States shall give Settling Defendant notice of any claim for which the United States plans to seek indemnification pursuant to Paragraph 52, and shall consult with Settling Defendant prior to settling such claim.

53. Except as set forth in paragraph 53 a. below, Settling Defendant waives all claims against the United States for damages or reimbursement or for set-off of any payments made or to be made to the United States, arising from or on account of any contract, agreement, or arrangement between Settling Defendant and any person for performance of Work on or relating to the Site, including, but not limited to, claims on account of construction delays. In addition, Settling Defendant shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States with respect to any and all claims for damages or reimbursement arising from or on account of any contract, agreement, or arrangement between Settling Defendant and any person for performance of Work on or relating to the Site, including, but not limited to, claims on account of construction delays.

a. Nothing in this Consent Decree, including but not limited to the covenant not to sue in Paragraph 83 of Section XXI (Covenants by Settling Defendant), shall constitute or effect a waiver, release, discharge or covenant not to sue the United States, on account of activities by the United States Department of Energy or its predecessors or successors and the General Services Administration or its predecessors or successors, as alleged in the FMC action.

54. No later than fifteen (15) days before commencing any on-site Work, Settling Defendant shall secure, and shall maintain until the first anniversary of EPA's Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action pursuant to Subparagraph 48.b of Section XIV (Certification of Completion) comprehensive general liability insurance with limits of \$1 million dollars, combined single limit, and automobile liability insurance with limits of \$1 million dollars, combined single limit, naming the United States as an additional insured. In addition, for the duration of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall satisfy, or shall ensure that their contractors or subcontractors satisfy, all applicable laws and regulations regarding the provision of worker's compensation insurance for all persons performing the Work on behalf of Settling Defendant in furtherance of this Consent Decree. Prior to commencement of the Work under this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall provide to EPA certificates of such insurance and a copy of each insurance policy. Settling Defendant shall resubmit such certificates and copies of policies each year on the anniversary of the Effective Date. If Settling Defendant demonstrates by evidence satisfactory to EPA that any contractor or subcontractor maintains insurance equivalent to that described above, or insurance covering the same risks but in a lesser amount, then, with respect to that contractor or subcontractor, Settling Defendant need provide only that portion of the insurance described above which is not maintained by the contractor or subcontractor.

XVII. FORCE MAJEURE

55. "Force majeure," for purposes of this Consent Decree, is defined as any event arising from causes entirely beyond the control of the Settling Defendant, of any entity controlled by Settling Defendant, or of Settling Defendant's contractors, that delays or prevents the performance of any obligation under this Consent Decree despite Settling Defendant's best efforts to fulfill the obligation. The requirement that the Settling Defendant exercise "best efforts to fulfill the obligation" includes using best efforts to anticipate any potential force majeure event and best efforts to address the effects of any potential force majeure event (1) as it is occurring and (2) following the potential force majeure event, such that the delay is minimized to the greatest extent possible. "Force Majeure" does not include financial inability to complete the Work or a failure to attain the Performance Standards.

56. If any event occurs or has occurred that may delay the performance of any obligation under this Consent Decree, whether or not caused by a force majeure event, the Settling Defendant shall notify orally EPA's Remedial Project Manager or, in his or her absence, the Chief of the New Jersey Remediation Branch, Emergency and Remedial Response Division, Region 2, within twenty-four (24) hours of when Settling Defendant first knew that the event might cause a delay. Within three (3) days thereafter, Settling Defendant shall provide in writing to EPA an explanation and description of the reasons for the delay; the anticipated duration of the delay; all actions taken or to be taken to prevent or minimize the delay; a schedule for

implementation of any measures to be taken to prevent or mitigate the delay or the effect of the delay; the Settling Defendant's rationale for attributing such delay to a force majeure event if they intend to assert such a claim; and a statement as to whether, in the opinion of the Settling Defendant, such event may cause or contribute to an endangerment to public health, welfare or the environment. The Settling Defendant shall include with any notice all available documentation supporting their claim that the delay was attributable to a force majeure. Failure to comply with the above requirements shall preclude Settling Defendant from asserting any claim of force majeure for that event for the period of time of such failure to comply, and for any additional delay caused by such failure. Settling Defendant shall be deemed to know of any circumstance of which Settling Defendant, any entity controlled by Settling Defendant, or Settling Defendant's contractors knew or should have known.

57. If EPA agrees that the delay or anticipated delay is attributable to a force majeure event, the time for performance of the obligations under this Consent Decree that are affected by the force majeure event will be extended by EPA for such time as is necessary to complete those obligations. An extension of the time for performance of the obligations affected by the force majeure event shall not, of itself, extend the time for performance of any other obligation. If EPA does not agree that the delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by a force majeure event, EPA will notify the Settling Defendant in writing of its decision. If EPA agrees that the delay is attributable to a force majeure event, EPA will notify the Settling Defendant in writing of the length of the extension, if any, for performance of the obligations affected by the force majeure event.

58. If the Settling Defendant elects to invoke the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution), it shall do so no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of EPA's notice. In any such proceeding, Settling Defendant shall have the burden of demonstrating by a preponderance of the evidence that the delay or anticipated delay has been or will be caused by a force majeure event, that the duration of the delay or the extension sought was or will be warranted under the circumstances, that best efforts were exercised to avoid and mitigate the effects of the delay, and that Settling Defendant complied with the requirements of Paragraphs 55 and 56, above. If Settling Defendant carries this burden, the delay at issue shall be deemed not to be a violation by Settling Defendant of the affected obligation of this Consent Decree identified to EPA and the Court.

XVIII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

59. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in this Consent Decree, the dispute resolution procedures of this Section shall be the exclusive mechanism to resolve disputes arising under or with respect to this Consent Decree. However, the procedures set forth in this Section shall not apply to actions by the United States to enforce obligations of the Settling Defendant that have not been disputed in accordance with this Section.

60. Any dispute which arises under or with respect to this Consent Decree shall in the first instance be the subject of informal negotiations between the parties to the dispute. The period for informal negotiations shall not exceed twenty (20) days from the time the dispute arises, unless it is modified by written agreement of the parties to the dispute. The dispute shall be considered to have arisen when one party sends the other parties a written Notice of Dispute.

61. Statements of Position.

a. In the event that the parties cannot resolve a dispute by informal negotiations under the preceding Paragraph, then the position advanced by EPA shall be considered binding unless, within ten (10) days after the conclusion of the informal negotiation period, Settling Defendant invokes the formal dispute resolution procedures of this Section by serving on the United States a written Statement of Position on the matter in dispute, including, but not limited to, any factual data, analysis or opinion supporting that position and any supporting documentation relied upon by the Settling Defendant. The Statement of Position shall specify the Settling Defendant's position as to whether formal dispute resolution should proceed under Paragraph 62 or Paragraph 63.

b. After receipt of Settling Defendant's Statement of Position, EPA will serve on Settling Defendant its Statement of Position, including, but not limited to, any factual data, analysis, or opinion supporting that position and all supporting documentation relied upon by EPA. EPA's Statement of Position shall include a statement as to whether formal dispute resolution should proceed under Paragraph 62 or 63. Within seven (7) days after receipt of EPA's Statement of Position, Settling Defendant may submit a Reply.

c. If there is disagreement between EPA and the Settling Defendant as to whether dispute resolution should proceed under Paragraph 62 or 63, the parties to the dispute shall follow the procedures set forth in the paragraph determined by EPA to be applicable. However, if the Settling Defendant ultimately appeals to the Court to resolve the dispute, the Court shall determine which paragraph is applicable in accordance with the standards of applicability set forth in Paragraphs 62 and 63.

62. Formal dispute resolution for disputes pertaining to the selection or adequacy of any response action and all other disputes that are accorded review on the administrative record under applicable principles of administrative law shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures set forth in this Paragraph. For purposes of this Paragraph, the adequacy of any response action includes, without limitation: (1) the adequacy or appropriateness of plans, procedures to implement plans, or any other items requiring approval by EPA under this Consent Decree; and (2) the adequacy of the performance of response actions taken pursuant to this Consent Decree. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to allow any dispute by Settling Defendant regarding the validity of the ROD's or the ESD's provisions or any determination by EPA regarding natural attenuation of contaminated ground water at the Site.

a. An administrative record of the dispute shall be maintained by EPA and shall contain all statements of position, including supporting documentation, submitted pursuant to this Section. Where appropriate, EPA may allow submission of supplemental statements of position by the parties to the dispute.

b. The Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division, EPA Region 2, will issue a final administrative decision resolving the dispute based on the administrative record described in Paragraph 62.a. This decision shall be binding upon the Settling Defendant, subject only to the right to seek judicial review pursuant to Paragraph 62.c and d.

c. Any administrative decision made by EPA pursuant to Paragraph 62.b shall be reviewable by this Court, provided that a motion for judicial review of the decision is filed by the Settling Defendant with the Court and served on all Parties within ten (10) days of receipt of EPA's decision. The motion shall include a description of the matter in dispute, the efforts made by the parties to resolve it, the relief requested, and the schedule, if any, within which the dispute must be resolved to ensure orderly implementation of this Consent Decree. The United States may file a response to Settling Defendant's motion.

d. In proceedings on any dispute governed by this Paragraph, Settling Defendant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the decision of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division Director is arbitrary and capricious or otherwise not in accordance with law. Judicial review of EPA's decision shall be on the administrative record compiled pursuant to Paragraph 62.a.

63. Formal dispute resolution for disputes that neither pertain to the selection or adequacy of any response action nor are otherwise accorded review on the administrative record under applicable principles of administrative law, shall be governed by this Paragraph.

a. Following receipt of Settling Defendant's Statement of Position submitted pursuant to Paragraph 61, the Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division, EPA Region 2, will issue a final decision resolving the dispute. The Emergency and Remedial Response Division Director's decision shall be binding on the Settling Defendant unless, within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision, the Settling Defendant files with the Court and serve on the parties a motion for judicial review of the decision setting forth the matter in dispute, the efforts made by the parties to resolve it, the relief requested, and the schedule, if any, within which the dispute must be resolved to ensure orderly implementation of the Consent Decree. The United States may file a response to Settling Defendant's motion.

b. Notwithstanding Paragraph F of Section I (Background) of this Consent Decree, judicial review of any dispute governed by this Paragraph shall be governed by applicable principles of law.

64. The invocation of formal dispute resolution procedures under this Section shall not extend, postpone or affect in any way any obligation of the Settling Defendant under this Consent Decree, not directly in dispute, unless EPA or the Court agrees otherwise. Stipulated penalties with respect to the disputed matter shall continue to accrue but payment shall be stayed pending resolution of the dispute as provided in Paragraph 72. Notwithstanding the stay of payment, stipulated penalties shall accrue from the first day of noncompliance with any applicable provision of this Consent Decree. In the event that the Settling Defendant does not prevail on the disputed issue, stipulated penalties shall be assessed and paid as provided in Section XIX (Stipulated Penalties).

XIX. STIPULATED PENALTIES

65. Settling Defendant shall be liable for stipulated penalties in the amounts set forth in Paragraph 66 to the United States for failure to comply with the requirements of this Consent Decree specified below, unless excused under Section XVII (Force Majeure). "Compliance" by Settling Defendant shall include completion of the activities under this Consent Decree or any work plan or other plan approved under this Consent Decree identified below in accordance with

all applicable requirements of law, this Consent Decree, the SOW, the applicable sections of the ROD, and any plans or other documents approved by EPA pursuant to this Consent Decree and within the specified time schedules established by and approved under this Consent Decree.

66. Stipulated Penalty Amounts - Work.

a. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for any noncompliance identified in Subparagraph 66.c.(1), (3), and (4):

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$1,000	1st through 14th day
\$2,500	15th through 30th day
\$5,000	31st day and beyond

b. The following stipulated penalties shall accrue per violation per day for any noncompliance identified in Subparagraph 66.c.(2) and (5):

<u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u>	<u>Period of Noncompliance</u>
\$2,500	1st through 14th day
\$5,000	15th through 30th day
\$7,500	31st day and beyond

c. Compliance Milestones. Compliance Milestones subject to stipulated penalties are as follows:

- (1) Submittals of the name of the Project Coordinator to EPA pursuant to Section XII (Project Coordinators) of this Consent Decree;
- (2) Payment of Stipulated Penalties pursuant to Section XIX (Stipulated Penalties);
- (3) Provision of Financial Assurance pursuant to Section XIII (Assurance of Ability to Complete Work) of this Consent Decree;
- (4) Compliance with any reporting requirements set forth in Section X (Reporting Requirements) of this Consent Decree; and
- (5) Implementation of Remedial Design, Remedial Action and/or Operation and Maintenance of the remedy in accordance with the SOW; the applicable sections of the ROD; the ESD and/or this Consent Decree; and all plans, reports and schedules approved thereunder, including, but not limited to, any modifications of the SOW or related work plans pursuant to Paragraph 13 and Section XXX (Modification) of this Consent Decree.

67. In the event that EPA assumes performance of a portion or all of the Work pursuant to Paragraph 81 of Section XX (Covenants Not to Sue by Plaintiff), Settling Defendant shall be liable for a stipulated penalty in the amount of \$1 million.

68. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after the complete performance is due or the day a violation occurs, and shall continue to accrue through the final day of the correction of the noncompliance or completion of the activity. However, stipulated penalties shall not accrue: (1) with respect to a deficient submission under Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions), during the period, if any, beginning on the 31st day after EPA's receipt of such submission until the date that EPA notifies Settling Defendant of any deficiency; (2) with respect to a decision by the Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division, EPA Region 2, under Paragraph 62.b or 63.a of Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution), during the period, if any, beginning on the 21st day after the date that Settling Defendant's reply to EPA's Statement of Position is received until the date that the Director issues a final decision regarding such dispute; or (3) with respect to judicial review by this Court of any dispute under Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution), during the period, if any, beginning on the 31st day after the Court's receipt of the final submission regarding the dispute until the date that the Court issues a final decision regarding such dispute. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Consent Decree.

69. Following EPA's determination that Settling Defendant has failed to comply with a requirement of this Consent Decree, EPA may give Settling Defendant written notification of the same and describe the noncompliance. EPA may send the Settling Defendant a written demand for the payment of the penalties. However, penalties shall accrue as provided in the preceding Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified the Settling Defendant of a violation.

70. All penalties accruing under this Section shall be due and payable to the United States within thirty (30) days of the Settling Defendant's receipt from EPA of a demand for payment of the penalties, unless Settling Defendant invokes the Dispute Resolution procedures under Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution). All payments to the United States under this Section shall be paid by certified or cashier's check(s) made payable to "EPA Hazardous Substances Superfund," shall be mailed to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, Superfund Accounting, P.O. Box 360188M, Pittsburgh, PA 15251, shall indicate that the payment is for stipulated penalties, and shall reference the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID #02-3C, the DOJ Case Number 90-11-3-1486/2, and the name and address of the party making payment. Copies of check(s) paid pursuant to this Section, and any accompanying transmittal letter(s), shall be sent to the United States as provided in Section XXV (Notices and Submissions).

71. The payment of penalties shall not alter in any way Settling Defendant's obligation to complete the performance of the Work required under this Consent Decree.

72. Penalties shall continue to accrue as provided in Paragraph 66 during any dispute resolution period, but need not be paid until the following:

a. If the dispute is resolved by agreement or by a decision of EPA that is not appealed to this Court, accrued penalties determined to be owing shall be paid to EPA within fifteen (15) days of the agreement or the receipt of EPA's decision or order;

b. If the dispute is appealed to this Court and the United States prevails in whole or in part, Settling Defendant shall pay all accrued penalties determined by the Court to be

owed to EPA within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Court's decision or order, except as provided in Subparagraph c below;

c. If the District Court's decision is appealed by any Party, Settling Defendant shall pay all accrued penalties determined by the District Court to be owing to the United States into an interest-bearing escrow account within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Court's decision or order. Penalties shall be paid into this account as they continue to accrue, at least every sixty (60) days. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the final appellate court decision, the escrow agent shall pay the balance of the account to EPA or to Settling Defendant to the extent that they prevail.

73. If Settling Defendant fails to pay stipulated penalties when due, the United States may institute proceedings to collect the penalties, as well as interest. Settling Defendant shall pay interest on the unpaid balance, which shall begin to accrue on the date of demand made pursuant to Paragraph 70.

74. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed as prohibiting, altering, or in any way limiting the ability of the United States to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Settling Defendant's violation of this Decree or of the statutes and regulations upon which it is based, including, but not limited to, penalties pursuant to Section 122(l) of CERCLA, provided, however, that the United States shall not seek civil penalties pursuant to Section 122(l) of CERCLA for any violation for which a stipulated penalty is provided herein, except in the case of a willful violation of the Consent Decree.

75. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, the United States may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive any portion of stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this Consent Decree.

XX. COVENANTS NOT TO SUE BY PLAINTIFF

76. In consideration of the actions that will be performed and the payments that will be made by the Settling Defendant under the terms of the Consent Decree, and except as specifically provided in Paragraph 80 of this Section, the United States covenants not to sue or to take administrative action against Settling Defendant pursuant to Sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA for performance of the Work. This covenant not to sue is conditioned upon the satisfactory performance by Settling Defendant of its obligations under this Consent Decree. This covenant not to sue extends only to the Settling Defendant for performance of the Work and does not extend to any other person.

77. United States' Pre-certification Reservations. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, the United States reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, the right to institute proceedings in this action or in a new action, or to issue an administrative order seeking to compel Settling Defendant

- a. to perform further response actions relating to the Site, or
- b. to reimburse the United States for additional costs of response if, prior to Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action:

or

- (i) conditions at the Site, previously unknown to EPA, are discovered,
- (ii) information, previously unknown to EPA, is received, in whole or in part,

and EPA determines that these previously unknown conditions or information together with any other relevant information indicates that the Remedial Action is not protective of human health or the environment.

78. United States' Post-certification Reservations. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, the United States reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, the right to institute proceedings in this action or in a new action, or to issue an administrative order seeking to compel Settling Defendant

- a. to perform further response actions relating to the Site, or
- b. to reimburse the United States for additional costs of response if,

subsequent to Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action:

- (i) conditions at the Site, previously unknown to EPA, are discovered,

or

- (ii) information, previously unknown to EPA, is received, in whole or in part,

and EPA determines that these previously unknown conditions or this information together with other relevant information indicate that the Remedial Action is not protective of human health or the environment.

79. For purposes of Paragraph 77, the information and the conditions known to EPA shall include only that information and those conditions known to EPA as of the date the ESD was signed and set forth in the ESD for the Site and the administrative record supporting the ESD. For purposes of Paragraph 78, the information and the conditions known to EPA shall include only that information and those conditions known to EPA as of the date of Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action and set forth in the ESD, the administrative record supporting the ESD or in any information received by EPA pursuant to the requirements of this Consent Decree prior to Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action.

80. General reservations of rights. The United States reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, all rights against Settling Defendant with respect to all matters not expressly included within Plaintiff's covenant not to sue. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, the United States reserves all rights against Settling Defendant with respect to:

- a. claims based on a failure by Settling Defendant to meet a requirement of this Consent Decree;
- b. liability arising from the past, present, or future disposal, release, or threat of release of Waste Material outside of the Site;

c. liability based upon the Settling Defendant's ownership or operation of the Site, or upon the Settling Defendant's transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal, or the arrangement for the transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of Waste Material at or in connection with the Site, other than as provided in the ESD, the Work, or otherwise ordered by EPA, after signature of this Consent Decree by the Settling Defendant;

d. liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments;

e. criminal liability;

f. liability for violations of federal or state law which occur during or after implementation of the Remedial Action;

g. liability, prior to Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action, for additional response actions that EPA determines are necessary to achieve Performance Standards, but that cannot be required pursuant to Paragraph 13 (Modification of the SOW or Related Work Plans);

h. liability for Past Response Costs incurred by the United States;

i. liability for Future Response Costs incurred or to be incurred by the United States;

j. liability for costs that the United States will incur related to the Site but are not within the definition of Future Response Costs;

k. liability for costs incurred or to be incurred by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry related to the Site; and

l. liability for response actions other than the Work as defined in this Consent Decree.

81. Work Takeover. In the event EPA determines that Settling Defendant has ceased implementation of any portion of the Work, is seriously or repeatedly deficient or late in their performance of the Work, or are implementing the Work in a manner which may cause an endangerment to human health or the environment, EPA may assume the performance of all or any portions of the Work as EPA determines necessary. Settling Defendant may invoke the procedures set forth in Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution), Paragraph 62, to dispute EPA's determination that takeover of the Work is warranted under this Paragraph. Costs incurred by the United States in performing the Work pursuant to this Paragraph shall be considered Future Response Costs that Settling Defendant shall pay.

82. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, the United States retains all authority and reserves all rights to take any and all response actions authorized by law.

XXI. COVENANTS BY SETTLING DEFENDANT

83. Covenant Not to Sue. Subject to the reservations in Paragraphs 53 a. and 84, Settling Defendant hereby covenants not to sue and agrees not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States with respect to its obligations under this Consent Decree including, but not limited to:

a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement from the Hazardous Substance Superfund (established pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 9507) through CERCLA Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, 113 or any other provision of law;

b. any claims against the United States, including any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States under CERCLA Sections 107 or 113, or

c. any claims arising out of response actions at or in connection with the Site, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the Tucker Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1491, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, as amended, or at common law.

84. The Settling Defendant reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, claims against the United States, subject to the provisions of Chapter 171 of Title 28 of the United States Code, for money damages for injury or loss of property or personal injury or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the United States while acting within the scope of his office or employment under circumstances where the United States, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred. However, any such claim shall not include a claim for any damages caused, in whole or in part, by the act or omission of any person, including any contractor, who is not a federal employee as that term is defined in 28 U.S.C. § 2671; nor shall any such claim include a claim based on EPA's selection of response actions; or the oversight or approval of the Settling Defendant's plans or activities. The foregoing applies only to claims which are brought pursuant to any statute other than CERCLA and for which the waiver of sovereign immunity is found in a statute other than CERCLA.

85. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be deemed to constitute preauthorization of a claim within the meaning of Section 111 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9611, or 40 C.F.R. § 300.700(d).

XXII. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT: CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION

86. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Consent Decree. The preceding sentence shall not be construed to waive or nullify any rights that any person not a signatory to this decree may have under applicable law. Each of the Parties expressly reserves any and all rights (including, but not limited to, any right to contribution), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action which each Party may have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Site against any person not a Party hereto.

87. The Parties agree, and by entering this Consent Decree this Court finds, that the Settling Defendant is entitled, as of the Effective Date, to protection from contribution actions or claims as provided by CERCLA Section 113(f)(2), 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2) for matters addressed in this Consent Decree. The "Matters Addressed" in this Consent Decree is the Work as defined herein.

88. The Settling Defendant agrees that with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought by them for matters related to this Consent Decree they will notify the United States in writing no later than sixty (60) days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim.

89. The Settling Defendant also agrees that with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against them for matters related to this Consent Decree they will notify in writing the United States within ten (10) days of service of the complaint on them. In addition, Settling Defendant shall notify the United States within ten (10) days of service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment and within ten (10) days of receipt of any order from a court setting a case for trial.

90. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by the United States for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other appropriate relief relating to the Site, Settling Defendant shall not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon the principles of waiver, res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the claims raised by the United States in the subsequent proceeding were or should have been brought in the instant case; provided, however, that nothing in this Paragraph affects the enforceability of the covenants not to sue set forth in Section XX (Covenants Not to Sue by Plaintiff).

XXIII. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

91. Settling Defendant shall provide to EPA, upon request, copies of all documents and information within their possession or control or that of their contractors or agents relating to activities at the Site or to the implementation of this Consent Decree, including, but not limited to, sampling, analysis, chain of custody records, manifests, trucking logs, receipts, reports, sample traffic routing, correspondence, or other documents or information related to the Work. Settling Defendant shall also make available to EPA, for purposes of investigation, information gathering, or testimony, their employees, agents, or representatives with knowledge of relevant facts concerning the performance of the Work.

92. Business Confidential and Privileged Documents.

a. Settling Defendant may assert business confidentiality claims covering part or all of the documents or information submitted to Plaintiff under this Consent Decree to the extent permitted by and in accordance with Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e)(7), and 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). Documents or information determined to be confidential by EPA will be afforded the protection specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies documents or information when they are submitted to EPA or if EPA has notified Settling Defendant that the documents or information are not confidential under the standards of Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA or 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B, the public may be given access to such documents or information without further notice to Settling Defendant.

b. The Settling Defendant may assert that certain documents, records and other information are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If the Settling Defendant asserts such a privilege in lieu of providing documents, they shall provide the Plaintiff with the following: (1) the title of the document, record, or information; (2) the date of the document, record, or information; (3) the name and title of the author of the document, record, or information; (4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; (5) a description of the contents of the document, record, or information; and (6) the privilege asserted by Settling Defendant. However, no documents, reports or other information

created or generated pursuant to the requirements of the Consent Decree shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

93. No claim of confidentiality shall be made with respect to any data, including, but not limited to, all sampling, analytical, monitoring, hydrogeologic, scientific, chemical, or engineering data, or any other documents or information evidencing conditions at or around the Site.

XXIV. RETENTION OF RECORDS

94. Until 10 years after the Settling Defendant's receipt of EPA's notification pursuant to Paragraph 49.b of Section XIV (Certification of Completion of the Work), Settling Defendant shall preserve and retain all non-identical copies of records and documents (including records or documents in electronic form) now in its possession or control or which come into its possession or control that relate in any manner to its liability under CERCLA with respect to the Site, provided, however, that Settling Defendant, who is potentially liable as an operator of the Site, must retain, in addition, all documents and records that relate to the liability of any other person under CERCLA with respect to the Site. Settling Defendant must also retain, and instruct its contractors and agents to preserve, for the same period of time specified above all non-identical copies of the last draft or final version of any documents or records (including documents or records in electronic form) now in its possession or control or which come into its possession or control that relate in any manner to the performance of the Work, provided, however, that Settling Defendant (and its contractors and agents) must retain, in addition, copies of all data generated during the performance of the Work and not contained in the aforementioned documents required to be retained. Each of the above record-retention requirements shall apply regardless of any corporate retention policy to the contrary.

95. At the conclusion of this document retention period, Settling Defendant shall notify the United States at least 90 days prior to the destruction of any such records or documents, and, upon request by the United States, Settling Defendant shall deliver any such records or documents to EPA. The Settling Defendant may assert that certain documents, records and other information are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If the Settling Defendant asserts such a privilege, they shall provide the Plaintiffs with the following: (1) the title of the document, record, or information; (2) the date of the document, record, or information; (3) the name and title of the author of the document, record, or information; (4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; (5) a description of the subject of the document, record, or information; and (6) the privilege asserted by Settling Defendant. However, no documents, reports or other information created or generated pursuant to the requirements of the Consent Decree shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

96. Settling Defendant hereby certifies individually that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, after thorough inquiry, it has not altered, mutilated, discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of any records, documents or other information (other than identical copies) relating to its potential liability regarding the Site since notification of potential liability by the United States or the State or the filing of suit against it regarding the Site and that it has fully complied with any and all EPA requests for information pursuant to Section 104(e) and 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9604(e) and 9622(e), and Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6927.

XXV. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS

97. Whenever, under the terms of this Consent Decree, written notice is required to be given or a report or other document is required to be sent by one Party to another, it shall be directed to the individuals at the addresses specified below, unless those individuals or their successors give notice of a change to the other Parties in writing. All notices and submissions shall be considered effective upon receipt, unless otherwise provided. Written notice as specified herein shall constitute complete satisfaction of any written notice requirement of the Consent Decree with respect to the United States, EPA and the Settling Defendant, respectively.

As to the United States:

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611
Re: DJ # 90-11-3-1486/2

Director, Emergency and Remedial Response
Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

Michael Zcolla
EPA Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

As to the Settling Defendant:

Brian M. McGirmis
Remediation Project Manager
FMC Corporation
1735 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

XXVI. EFFECTIVE DATE

98. The effective date of this Consent Decree shall be the date upon which this Consent Decree is entered by the Court, except as otherwise provided herein.

XXVII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

99. This Court retains jurisdiction over both the subject matter of this Consent Decree and the Settling Defendant for the duration of the performance of the terms and provisions of this Consent Decree for the purpose of enabling any of the Parties to apply to the Court at any time for such further order, direction, and relief as may be necessary or appropriate for the construction or modification of this Consent Decree, or to effectuate or enforce compliance with its terms, or to resolve disputes in accordance with Section XVIII (Dispute Resolution) hereof.

XXVIII. APPENDICES

100. The following appendices are attached to and incorporated into this Consent Decree:

"Appendix A" is the ESD.

"Appendix B" is the ROD.

"Appendix C" is the description and/or map of the Site.

"Appendix D" is the SOW.

"Appendix E" is the draft easement

XXIX. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

101. Settling Defendant shall propose to EPA its participation in the community relations plan to be developed by EPA. EPA will determine the appropriate role for the Settling Defendant under the Plan. Settling Defendant shall also cooperate with EPA in providing information regarding the Work to the public. As requested by EPA, Settling Defendant shall participate in the preparation of such information for dissemination to the public and in public meetings which may be held or sponsored by EPA to explain activities at or relating to the Site.

XXX. MODIFICATION

102. Schedules specified in this Consent Decree for completion of the Work may be modified by agreement of EPA and the Settling Defendant. All such modifications shall be made in writing.

103. Except as provided in Paragraph 13 (Modification of the SOW or Related Work Plans), no material modifications shall be made to the SOW without written notification to and written approval of the United States, Settling Defendant, and the Court, if such modifications fundamentally alter the basic features of the selected remedy within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. 300.435(c)(2)(B)(ii). Modifications to the SOW that do not materially alter that document, or material modifications to the SOW that do not fundamentally alter the basic features of the selected remedy within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. 300.435(c)(2)(B)(ii), may be made by written agreement between EPA and the Settling Defendant.

104. Nothing in this Decree shall be deemed to alter the Court's power to enforce, supervise or approve modifications to this Consent Decree.

XXXI. LODGING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

105. This Consent Decree shall be lodged with the Court for a period of not less than thirty (30) days for public notice and comment in accordance with Section 122(d)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(d)(2), and 28 C.F.R. § 50.7. The United States reserves the right to withdraw or withhold its consent if the comments regarding the Consent Decree disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the Consent Decree is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Settling Defendant consents to the entry of this Consent Decree without further notice.

106. If for any reason the Court should decline to approve this Consent Decree in the form presented, this agreement is voidable at the sole discretion of any Party and the terms of the agreement may not be used as evidence in any litigation between the Parties.

XXXII. SIGNATORIES/SERVICE

107. The undersigned representative of Settling Defendant to this Consent Decree and the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and to execute and legally bind such Party to this document.

108. Settling Defendant hereby agrees not to oppose entry of this Consent Decree by this Court or to challenge any provision of this Consent Decree unless the United States has notified the Settling Defendant in writing that it no longer supports entry of the Consent Decree.

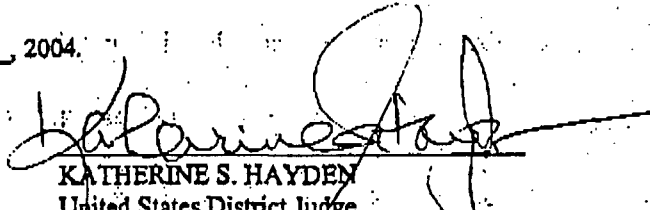
109. Settling Defendant shall identify, on the attached signature page, the name, address and telephone number of an agent who is authorized to accept service of process by mail on behalf of that Party with respect to all matters arising under or relating to this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant hereby agrees to accept service in that manner and to waive the formal service requirements set forth in Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any applicable local rules of this Court, including, but not limited to, service of a summons.

XXXIII. FINAL JUDGMENT

110. This Consent Decree and its appendices constitute the final, complete, and exclusive agreement and understanding among the parties with respect to the settlement embodied in the Consent Decree. The parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Consent Decree.

111. Upon approval and entry of this Consent Decree by the Court, this Consent Decree shall constitute a final judgment between and among the United States and the Settling Defendant. The Court finds that there is no just reason for delay and therefore enters this judgment as a final judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 54 and 58.

SO ORDERED THIS 13th DAY OF Sept, 2004.

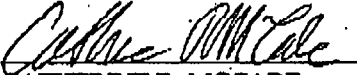

KATHERINE S. HAYDEN
United States District Judge

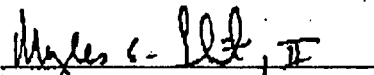
THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES enter into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States v. FMC Corporation and Lisbeth Higgins, Civil Action No. 01-2946 (KSH) relating to the Higgins Disposal Superfund Site.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THOMAS L. SANSONETTI
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Date: 5/17/04


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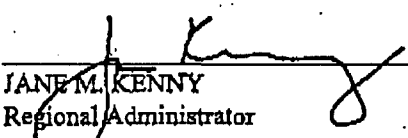
CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIE
United States Attorney
District of New Jersey

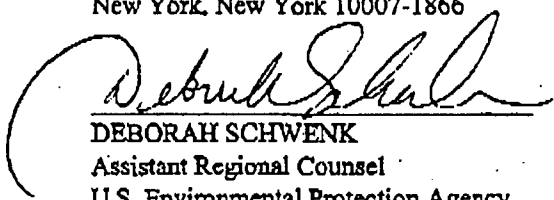
SUSAN S. CASSELL
Assistant United States Attorney
970 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES enter into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States v. FMC Corporation and Lisbeth Higgins, Civil Action No. 01-2946 (KSH) relating to the Higgins Disposal Superfund Site.

FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

Date: APR 12 2004


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FOR FMC CORPORATION

Robert T. Forbes 2/26/04

Robert T. Forbes

Director, Environment

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